



## **UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD**

### **Meeting Summary March 19, 2012**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Juan Cardenas. Introductions were made.

The meeting summaries for November 2011 through February 2012 were approved (Thompson moved, Seals seconded).

#### **Update from Upcounty Regional Director**

Catherine Matthews, Regional Director, shared the following highlights.

- A delegation of seniors met with Ms. Matthews to express concerns regarding proposed changes to fitness and water exercise classes at Montgomery College. A College-appointed task force will soon forward recommendations to the College administration however approximately 90 seniors disagree with the current stance of the task force. Ms. Matthews will look into the matter with both parties.
- Mr. Mike Subin, Office of the County Executive, shared information about traffic safety improvements being made that will lower the MD Route 118 speed limits. Data analysis is pending and a detailed investigation is underway concerning the number of pedestrians hit by cars in the upcounty area.

#### **Update from the County Council**

- No report.

**Guest Discussion:** The Dept. of General Services Director, David Dise, updated the Board on the County's Smart Growth projects (Public Safety Training Academy, Public Safety Headquarters, Liquor Warehouse, Ride On's Equipment Maintenance Operations Center, etc.). He also discussed the design/construction status of several new Upcounty facilities --- Gaithersburg Library Renovation, new Animal Shelter, and the Plum Gar Recreation Center Renovation. Other projects included the Clarksburg fire station, Travilah Fire Station, improvements to the Germantown Transit Station, and sewer service for the Clarksburg Historic District. Some discussion was held on the proposed annexation of the Great Indoors Store on Shady Grove Road and it was re-iterated that there will not be an expansion of the Montgomery Airpark.

**Other general Board discussion:** Mr. Cockrell raised a driver safety issue on Seneca Meadows that did not provide advanced notice to drivers. Mr. Eapen asked the status of road and intersection improvements in Clarksburg as agreed to by the County Executive and developers (Clarksburg Village, Inc. and Clarksburg Skylark LLC). Ms. Matthews stated that a letter of intent had been signed with language that those improvements would be done "in an expeditious manner." Mr. Noble questioned inspections of nursing and assisted living facilities. Chairman Cardenas responded that Ms. Diane Schwartz-Jones, Director of Permitting Services, would be the Board's guest speaker at the April 16 meeting. Mr. Scott Graham reminded Board members that the new Public Safety Memorial Dedication will be on April 20. Mr. Linck announced that vandals were caught and arrested for throwing rocks at cars and homes in Montgomery Village. I explained the new Robert Sector Partnership between the 6D Police and Montgomery Village community that will address crimes and incidents in that community.

#### **Report from the Chairperson** – Mr. Cardenas noted the following:

- A vacancy announcement for UCAB seats would be publicized soon.
- The Interview Committee for new applicants will receive more information in April.
- The Nominating Committee for the election of officers will present a slate at the April meeting. Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor at the May meeting and the voting will take then as well.
- He reminded members to review the County Executive's submitted operating budget for FY13 and specifically highlighted some items.

- He reminded members that there will be a joint committee meeting on March 26 to prioritize budget items in preparation of the Board's testimony.

**Committee Reports:** No reports.

**Community Concerns:** No new issues presented. Chairman Cardenas updated the Board on concerns presented by resident Gabe Chikes. The lighting issue along Mateny Road has been resolved and Mr. Chikes was able to get satisfying information about the resurfacing of Mateny between Clopper Road and Great Seneca Highway. Mr. Chikes applauded the work of the Board and the Regional Office staff to get responsive results for the community.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

*Attendance:* Juan Cardenas, Matthew Leakan, Cherian Eapen, Andres Aviles, Joel Cockrell, Beth Daly, Scott Graham, James King, Kevin Linck, Robert Nelson, Doug Noble, Oneil Ormsby, Gail Robinson, Pat Seals, Robert Thompson.

*Additional Guests:* Brian Donohue, Dave Humpton, Terry O'Grady, Tiffany Arnold (Germantown Patch)

*Staff:* Catherine Matthews